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Letter dated 16 July 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 21 June 2001 (S/2001/614), in which you suggested several practical steps for my consideration with regard to the implementation of the recommendations contained in my two reports on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/1999/957 and S/2001/331).

I would like to express my appreciation at the continuing commitment of the Security Council to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. By focusing on the implementation of those recommendations agreed upon in its resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1296 (2000) or endorsed in its open meeting on 23 April 2001, the Council helps to ensure that future efforts to bring genuine relief and protection to civilians in armed conflict will be more effective.

I have taken good note of the Council's suggestions and agree on the need for close cooperation and joint strategic planning between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on these pivotal issues. I am pleased to inform you that I have requested the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to develop operational procedures, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and in close consultation with members of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which will clarify the responsibilities for, and facilitate the implementation of, the recommendations and enhance cooperation between the different parts of the United Nations system.

I shall report regularly to the Security Council on the status of these initiatives, in particular on progress in developing the modalities for the implementation of the recommendations, beginning in November 2001. I also welcome the opportunity to present to the Council a follow-up report on the status of implementation and any other matters aimed at enhancing the protection of civilians by November 2002, to be followed by regular implementation reports thereafter.

As requested, I have transmitted my report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict of 30 March 2001 (S/2001/331) to the President of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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